

party spirit. What a game, too, will the one party have in their hands by eternally threatening the other that unless they do so and so they will join their northern neighbors. If we reduce our Union to Virginia and North Carolina, immediately the conflict will be established between the representatives and these two States, and they will end by breaking into their simple units. Seeing therefore that an association of men, who will not quarrel with one another, is a thing which never yet existed from the greatest confederacy of nations down to a town meeting or a vestry; seeing that we must have somebody to quarrel with, I had rather keep our New England associates for that purpose than to see our bickerings transferred to others. They are circumscribed within such narrow limits, and their population so full, that their numbers will ever be the minority, and they are marked, like the Jews, with such a perversity of character, as to constitute from that circumstance the natural division of our parties. A little patience and we shall see the reig'n of witches pass over, their spells dissolved, and the people recovering their true sight, restoring their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit and incurring the losses of war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. But who can say what would be the evils of a scission, and when and where they would end? Better keep together as we are, haul off from Europe as soon as we can, and from all attachments to any portion of it; and if they show their power just sufficiently to hoop us together it will be the happiest situation in which we can exist. If the game runs sometime against us at home, we must have patience till luck turns. (From a letter to John Taylor, 1798. F. VII., 264.)

SECESSION.—What, then, does this English faction with you mean? Their newspapers say rebellion, and that they will not remain united with us unless we will permit them to govern the majority. If that be their purpose, their anti-republican spirit, it ought to be met at once. But a government like ours should be slow in believing this, should put forth its whole might when necessary to suppress it, and promptly return to the paths of